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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 1, 2007. Claims 1-46 and 49-52 are pending. Claims 47 and 48 were previously canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 5, 9, 12, 15, 20, 23, 28, 31, 35, 39 and 49 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, claims 1-46 and 49-52 are presented for reconsideration, with claims 1, 5, 9, 12, 15, 20, 23, 28, 31, 35, 39 and 49 being in independent form.

Claims 1-46 and 49-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,665,425 to Sampath et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,886 to Hockey et al and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,785,015 to Smith et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5, 9, 12, 15, 20, 23, 28, 31, 35, 39 and 49 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

The present application is directed to an improved approach devised by applicant for ensuring that a manager who supervises a communications terminal apparatus or image forming apparatus is apprised when consumables or servicing are needed for the apparatus, ensuring that the manager has the appropriate information in order to contact a service provider or depot for ordering said consumables or servicing for the apparatus is required, and ensuring that the manager who supervises the apparatus is automatically advised when the need for consumables or servicing is satisfied.

Sampath, as understood by Applicant, is directed to "automated diagnosis, prediction and remediation of failures in document processing systems based on an image quality defect analysis in conjunction with a machine/device data analysis" (see Sampath, column 1, lines 35-40).

Sampath, as acknowledged in the Office Action, does not disclose or suggest a

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communications terminal apparatus comprising a controller configured to send a request for said repair service to said manager and said service depot using the respectively registered electronic communications addresses automatically when said detector detects said event, the request sent automatically including said identification of said apparatus, said specification of said consumable product, and said identification of said service depot, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application.

Hockey, as understood by Applicant, proposes a system for collecting used toner in an electrostatographic recording system, and monitoring the collection of the used toner.

Hockey was cited in the Office Action as purportedly proposing automatically monitoring the amount of consumable used in a printing system, and issuing a notification to the service person when the consumable has been refilled.

However, Hockey, like Sampath, does not disclose or suggest a controller configured to send a request for said repair service to said manager and said service depot using the respectively registered electronic communications addresses automatically when said detector detects said event, the request sent automatically including said identification of said apparatus, said specification of said consumable product, and said identification of said service depot, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application.

Smith was cited in the Office Action as purportedly proposing a system manager supervising a network peripheral and contacting a consumable and parts supplier when repair services are needed.

Smith, column 15 lines 5-31, (reproduced below) was cited in the Office Action:

Prior to performing method 510, a system manager may configure a peripheral for being monitored or maintained by any user or other process. Initialization may include (a) defining access control codes for use with this peripheral; (b) defining roles for groups of

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users; and the access control codes appropriate for each role; (c) assigning roles or access control codes to each user (e.g., by username, email address, etc. as discussed above) expected to be interested in subscribing to status from this peripheral; (d) defining aliases (e.g., mailing lists); (e) *specifying the contents of various reports and the role or access control code prerequisites for reviewing each one*; and (f) entering subscriptions for reports associated with managing the peripheral, (e.g., *notification of low consumable quantities directed to consumable suppliers; notification of hard error conditions directed to parts suppliers and service personnel*; notification of network related emergency conditions to network service personnel; notification of network related busy conditions to network management personnel; and notification of media low and various environmental abnormalities to co-located site support). Initialization may be accomplished by network communication as discussed above. For example, the system manager may form one or more messages containing commands (e.g., CONFIG, SETACL, SETALIAS, APPOINT, PERMIT, and BATCH, as discussed above) and send these messages by email to the email address of the peripheral.

Thus, Smith, as understood by Applicant, proposes that a system manager can configure peripheral equipment to generate reports of specified content (such reports are accessed or retrieved by authorized personnel) and send notifications to suppliers and service personnel.

However, Smith, like Hockey and Sampath, does not disclose or suggest a controller configured to send a request for said repair service to said manager and said service depot using the respectively registered electronic communications addresses automatically when said detector detects said event, the request sent automatically including said identification of said apparatus, said specification of said consumable product, and said identification of said service depot, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application.

The cited art simply does not disclose or suggest sending a request for said repair service to said manager and said service depot using the respectively registered electronic communications addresses automatically when said detector detects said event, the request sent automatically including said identification of said apparatus, said specification of said consumable product, and said identification of said service depot, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 of the present

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application. Independent claims 9, 15, 23, 31 and 39 are patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, 15, 23, 31 and 39, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

Likewise, the cited art does not disclose or suggest sending a request for the repair service to the manager and the service depot using the respectively registered electronic communications addresses automatically when the detector detects the event, *the request sent automatically including the identification of the apparatus, the specification of the maintenance component, and the identification of the service depot*, as provided by the subject matter of claim 5. Independent claims 12, 20, 28, 35 and 39 are patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 5, 12, 20, 28, 35 and 39, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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